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# CIA ANALYST CRITICIZES REAGAN ADMINISTRATION

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Former CIA analyst and Charlotte native Frank Snepp III has criticized the Reagan administration's attitude toward the First Amendment.

He said the administration's "almost obsessive aversion to public scrutiny" has resulted in numerous federal policies limiting information access.

Snepp fought the government for his right to publish a book criticizing CIA activities in Vietnam without submitting it to the CIA for prior review. He lost his fight and in 1980 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled he must turn over to the government all profits from the book. The court also gave the CIA authority to screen almost anything he wrote.

One action based on Snepp's precedent-setting case demands that government employees sign contracts to prevent them from disclosing secrets. The contracts allow the government to obtain injunctions that may require pre-publication review of employee's writings.

Snepp said when his case was decided his father told him the ruling was dangerous because some "patriot in the White House would take it too far."

Snepp's father is Superior Court Judge Frank Snepp Jr.

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